Phipps dominates — twice

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Signal

Sportsman champ Dave Phipps not only cruises to one win in the Winston 250/Fall Spectacular at Saugus Speedway, he wins two main events.

There was no changing of the guard Saturday night at Saugus Speedway in the sportsman portion of the Winston 250 as champion Dave Phipps led every circuit of the one-third mile, paved oval in winning twin 75-lap main events for his eighth and ninth victories of the season.

In the final points race earlier this month, Phipps had a win streak of five races snapped when he took third, but he came back with a vengeance in the Fall Spectacular.

Also taking victories in the twin 50-lap main events for street stock figure 8 were Kenny Wilson and Eric Foster. Track champ Dave Blankenship was a challenger in each race, finishing second and fourth, respectively.

Phipps set fast time in sportsman qualifying, earning the pole position. He never surrendered the spot during the rest of the evening.

There was a series of mad scrambles behind Phipps in both races. Tobin Whitt, Keith Spangler and Dave Scheidecker were running second through fourth early, with Spangler taking second on lap 18. On lap 25, Gary Sigman moved to fourth, with Will Harper taking fifth. Ten laps later, Sigman passed Whitt for third, with Harper taking over fourth and Whitt falling to fifth.

Meanwhile, moving up to sixth from 20th was former track champion Jimmy Insolo, who eventually moved to third after a yellow flag on lap 47, and on lap 49 overtook Spangler to eventually finish second, with Spangler third, Harper fourth and Ron Hornaday Jr. fifth.

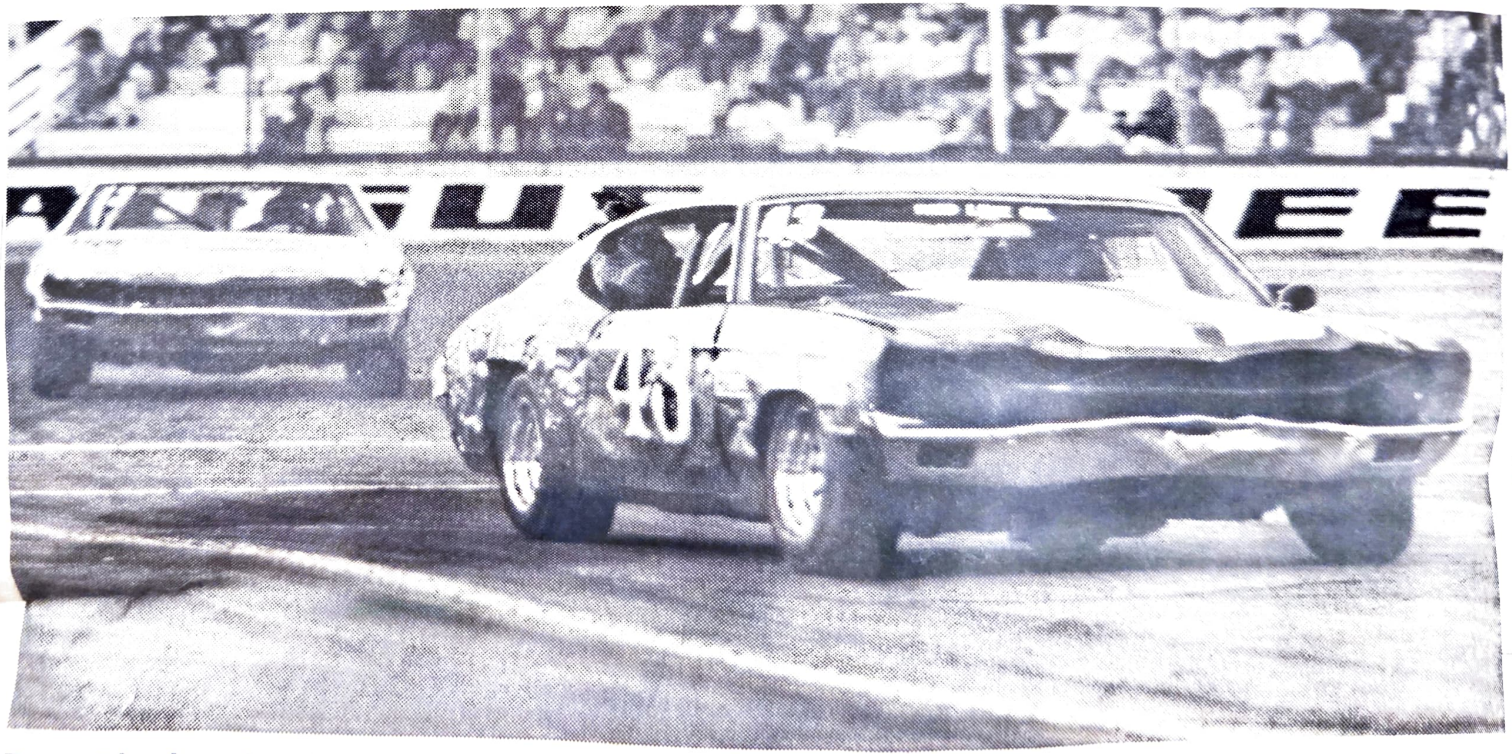
The second feature also had Phipps on the pole based on the first race finish. After two restarts, he was never passed. Insolo was in second but spun and was smacked by Frank White. Phipps then began total domination of the field, slowly but surely lapping most of the field. Only Sigman, Ray Hooper Jr. and Dennis Woolridge could remain on the lead lap.

Wilson had to hold off Blankenship in a virtual two-man duel in the first figure 8 race. Jim Marlewski actually grabbed the lead on lap 27, but as he began pulling away he spun on lap 36 and Wilson and Blankenship moved ahead and raced in that order to the checkered flag.

In the second figure 8 main, Wilson and Blankenship were up front, with Blankenship claiming the lead on lap 17 prior to a red flag. Blankenship was out front on the restart, but when Wilson had to slow for traffic, Foster, Dave Doll and Bryan Hayden moved ahead of him. On lap 20, Blankenship clipped Rick Crow, went to the pits for a repair, came back out on the lead lap at the rear and eventually fought his way back up to fourth.

Meanwhile, Foster was the new leader and he held off Doll in the race to the finish, with Rodney Peacher third ahead of Blankenship.

Next week is the Saugus Speedway finale for 1988, with a 150-lap factory stock enduro race and a destruction derby closing out the campaign. Gates open at noon, with qualifying at 4 p.m. and race action at 8, unless the number of entrants is large enough for a consolation at 7.



Dave Blankenship (43) tries to pull away from Craig Rayburn during the street stock figure 8.